Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Pacific American Affairs August 1 2008 Meeting Summary

The Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Pacific American Affairs held its August meeting at the Korean American Cultural Center in Southfield, with H. Sook Wilkinson, Chair, presiding. This meeting was hosted by the Korean American Community of Metro Detroit.

Chair Wilkinson welcomed new Council member Mr. Ehsan Taqbeem, representing the Bangladeshi community, and Ms. Constantine (Connie) Dang, representing the Vietnamese community.

The Council was briefed on the status of HB 6341 ("Anti-Bias Crime Bill") by Mr. Daniel Levy, Michigan Department of Civil Rights Chief Legal Officer.

Council member Roland Hwang reminded Council members of the Leadership Summit VI, scheduled for Saturday, September 13 at the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing. There is online registration at http://www.capa-mi.org.

Council member Jayashree Kommareddi reviewed the plans for the September 21 (Sunday) Council meeting in Marquette, hosted by Dr. Leslie Wong at Northern Michigan University (NMU.)

Honorary Member Rep. Hoon-Yung Hopgood gave a brief update on the status of HB 6172 ("Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission Act") which would establish an Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission and an Office of Asian Pacific American Affairs.

Under Old Business, Chair Wilkinson reviewed the status of the Michigan State Police investigation of misconduct involving Detroit-area Korean dry cleaners and employees of the Michigan Dept. of Labor and Economic Growth. Under New Business, Council member Mumtaz Haque presented a copy of the first ACAPAA newsletter, which will be sent to APA organizations via email and published on the ACAPAA website.

Next meeting of the Council will be on Sunday, September 21, 2008 at Northern Michigan University, Marquette, 9 a.m. to Noon.

The Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Pacific American Affairs was created by a May 2005, Executive Order (No.2005 – 10) from Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, to advise the Governor and the Department of Civil Rights on policy matters pertaining to Asian and Pacific Americans in Michigan. H. Sook Wilkinson, PhD, was appointed Chair of the Council, which was placed administratively inside the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. A copy of the Governor's Executive Order is available on the Governor's website at http://www.michigan.gov/gov.